

"...they offered to get a wagon to take her with her family to trial but deponent persisted in not going if they did bring a wagon after a good deal of conversation Giltner sat down and cried and said if deponent would give up the children, they would not take deponent and her husband away but leave them alone deponent refust [sic] however to give up the children, saying to

How often did children get taken from their parents during slavery?

Sarah Crosswhite's refusal to let her children be taken back into slavery was partly because she felt like she was worth being taken care of by her children like any other parent, black or white, entering their old age.

What affect did Giltner and Troutman's attempt to recapture the Crosswhite's have on Sarah Crosswhite's self-image?

Why didn't she trust the legal system to help her and her family keep their freedom?

"... Frances Troutman and David Giltner who then came in the house with Mr. Dixon the Deputy Sheriff and two other men who endeavored to take this deponent her husband and family to ~~Squire~~ trial as they said; deponent said she would not go to trial with them or allow her children to go, for she would die first..."
- from Deposition of Sarah Crosswhite

Sarah Crosswhite's refusal to leave her and her family's fate up to the courts showed that she believed in her own ability to gain her and her family's freedom more than the courts ability to do so.